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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Tuesday January 18, 1977

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State Department review completed

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday, January 18, 1977.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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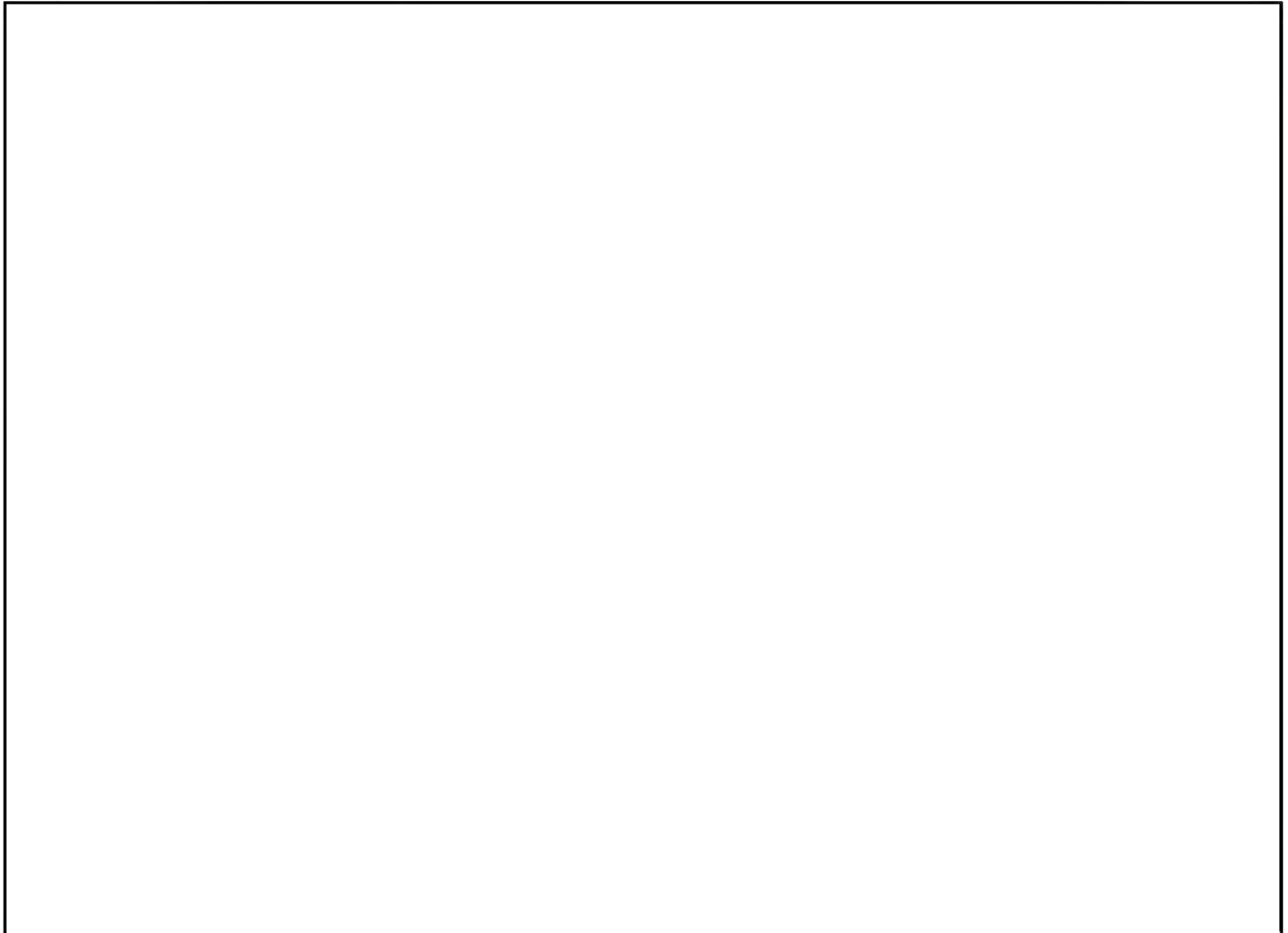
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SPAIN: Officials to Meet Basque Mayors

[REDACTED] Leaders of Spain's Basque region are continuing to exert pressure on the Spanish government to resolve the political amnesty question amidst indications that the government is moving toward an acceptable compromise.

[REDACTED] A delegation of Basque mayors will meet with Interior Minister Martin Villa today in Madrid to press demands for amnesty for about 200 political prisoners, most of whom are Basques.

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[redacted] The mayors boycotted a meeting with the minister on their home ground last week after he banned a local rally scheduled for Sunday. The Basque region has been the scene recently of clashes between police and demonstrators.

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[redacted] Some 262 mayors attended a meeting on Friday between Martin Villa and the Navarre provincial council, but according to press reports, no progress was made toward satisfying their demands.

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[redacted] In spite of Martin Villa's apparent lack of success in defusing the amnesty issue during his visit to the Basque country, there are signs that a solution may be in the offing. A Basque leader who attended a meeting with Prime Minister Suarez last week has reportedly told members of his party that the amnesty question will be resolved to the satisfaction of the Basques.

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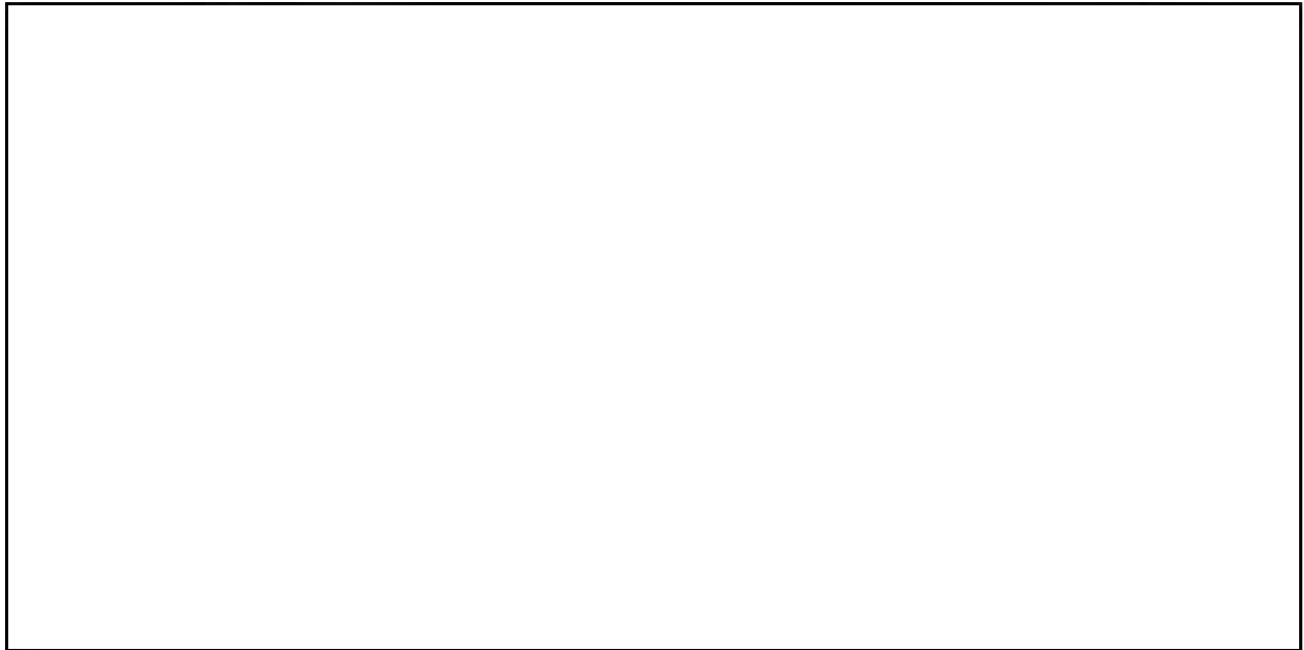
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MALAYSIA-THAILAND: Joint Military Operation

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[REDACTED] //Malaysia and Thailand have launched a military operation against insurgent forces of the Malayan Communist Party in western and central Thailand. The joint operation, involving several battalions of infantry supported by tactical aircraft, apparently is intended primarily to disrupt insurgent bases in the area. This is the first Thai-Malaysian operation since a temporary breakdown of cooperation along the border last spring.//

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[REDACTED] In 1974-1975 the communist insurgents increased their activities on the Malaysian side of the border area, but their attacks have decreased substantially in the past year. The insurgents have been slowly rebuilding their forces targeted against Malaysia and will probably continue sporadic attacks against government installations.

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[REDACTED] The insurgent forces are now estimated at about 2,400 armed cadres, mostly ethnic Chinese and a few hundred Thai Muslims. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The insurgents have had little success in appealing to Malays in Malaysia.

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[redacted] Malayan Communist Party insurgents on the Thai side of the border have generally avoided operations in Thailand unless threatened by Thai forces because they do not want to endanger their safe havens. [redacted]

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